

Medi-Cal Flowcharts

These flowcharts are designed to help direct you to Medi-Cal programs for which your client or your client's family may be eligible. To understand the eligibility requirements of a particular program, you should review the fact sheet for that particular program. You will also need a chart of the current federal poverty level (FPL) income levels for various sized families. If you do not have the fact sheets or FPL chart at hand, they are available on the Health Consumer Alliance website at: www.healthconsumer.org/publications.htm#briefs. The fact sheets and other materials that are available on the Web site are noted in *italics*.

Preliminary Considerations for assessing your client's eligibility for Medi-Cal:

- **Is a non-citizen family member applying for Medi-Cal?**

Full Medi-Cal benefits are available to U.S. citizens and many permanent resident aliens (i.e. people who have "green cards.") Recent refugees may also be eligible for Medi-Cal under special programs. If a person has no immigration documents or is a more recent immigrant, s/he may only be eligible for emergency services, family planning, prenatal, and childbirth services, or certain other limited services. If you answer the question with "Yes," then please review the materials on [Immigrants and Health Care](#).

- **Is your client a California resident?**

To receive Medi-Cal, a person must be a resident of this state. State residency generally is not difficult to prove—a person must show that she intends to stay in California indefinitely. If your client recently moved to California or maintains an address outside of the state, this could be an issue. If this is a possible issue, please review the fact sheet on [Medi-Cal State Residency Requirements](#).

- **Does your client have significant resources?**

Most Medi-Cal programs will limit the value of the assets that the family may possess. The house the family lives in and one car are never counted as assets. Medi-Cal also will not count resources necessary for self support in one's own business or as an employee of another business (e.g. farm or business property, tools, operating accounts for a business, a car used while at work.) If the family owns other real property or has money in bank accounts or other assets, these could affect the family's eligibility. Be sure to check the resource limit for the particular program.

- **What is the family's countable income?**

You will need to know how much money family members earn or receive from other sources such as Social Security, private pensions, or other sources. Compare the income to the [Medi-Cal and Healthy Families Income Levels](#) chart. You will also need to review whose income counts for certain family members. If you have a family with a stepparent or a child with his/her own income, be sure to review the fact sheets on [Sneed/Gamma and §1931\(b\)](#) and [Sneed/Gamma Prorated Income Limits](#).

For which Medi-Cal programs might your client or the client's family be eligible?

To find the program(s) for which your client may be eligible, look in the box below for the phrase that best describes your client. Boxes on the flowchart do not guarantee that your client is eligible for that program, but indicate which programs you should look at in more detail to figure out your client's eligibility. To determine the eligibility of various family members, you may need to look at more than one flowchart.

An individual may be eligible for more than one Medi-Cal program. Whenever possible, you will want to get family members into Medi-Cal programs that have no share of cost or the lowest share of cost for the family. Remember that most children who are eligible for Medi-Cal with a share of cost may be eligible for the Healthy Families Program.

If the family submits a joint Medi-Cal/Healthy Families application through the single point of entry, the application is screened to see whether children appear eligible for Medi-Cal with no share of cost. Those children may receive accelerated enrollment and full Medi-Cal benefits until the county makes a formal eligibility determination.

Your client is:

A family with minor children without disabilities or special needs	Go to Chart A
A pregnant woman, with or without children	Go to Chart A
A child with a disability or special needs	Go to Chart B
A pre-teen, teenager, or recent teenager	Go to Chart C
An adult 18-64 years old, with a disability or special needs	Go to Chart D
An elderly person, 65 or older	Go to Chart E
An adult 18-64 who does not have a disability and does not have custody of minor children	Go to Chart F

For questions about this flowchart, please contact Randy Boyle, Staff Attorney, National Health Law Program (310) 204-6010.

CHART A

(A family with minor children without disabilities OR a pregnant woman)

✓ Remember that all Medi-Cal eligible children and youth under 21 are eligible for EPSDT services.

Check the [EPSDT Quick Reference](#).

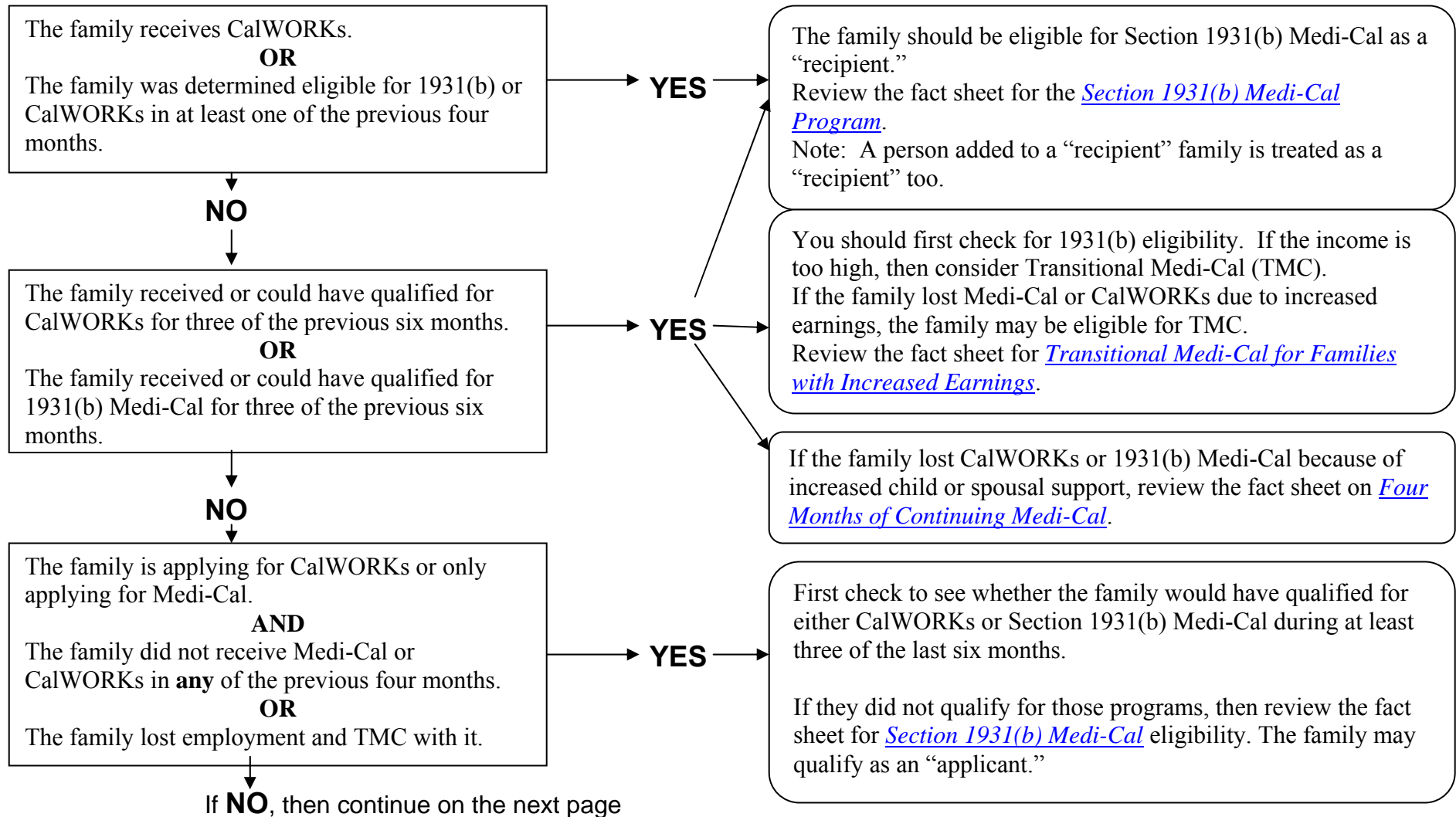


CHART A (CONTINUED)

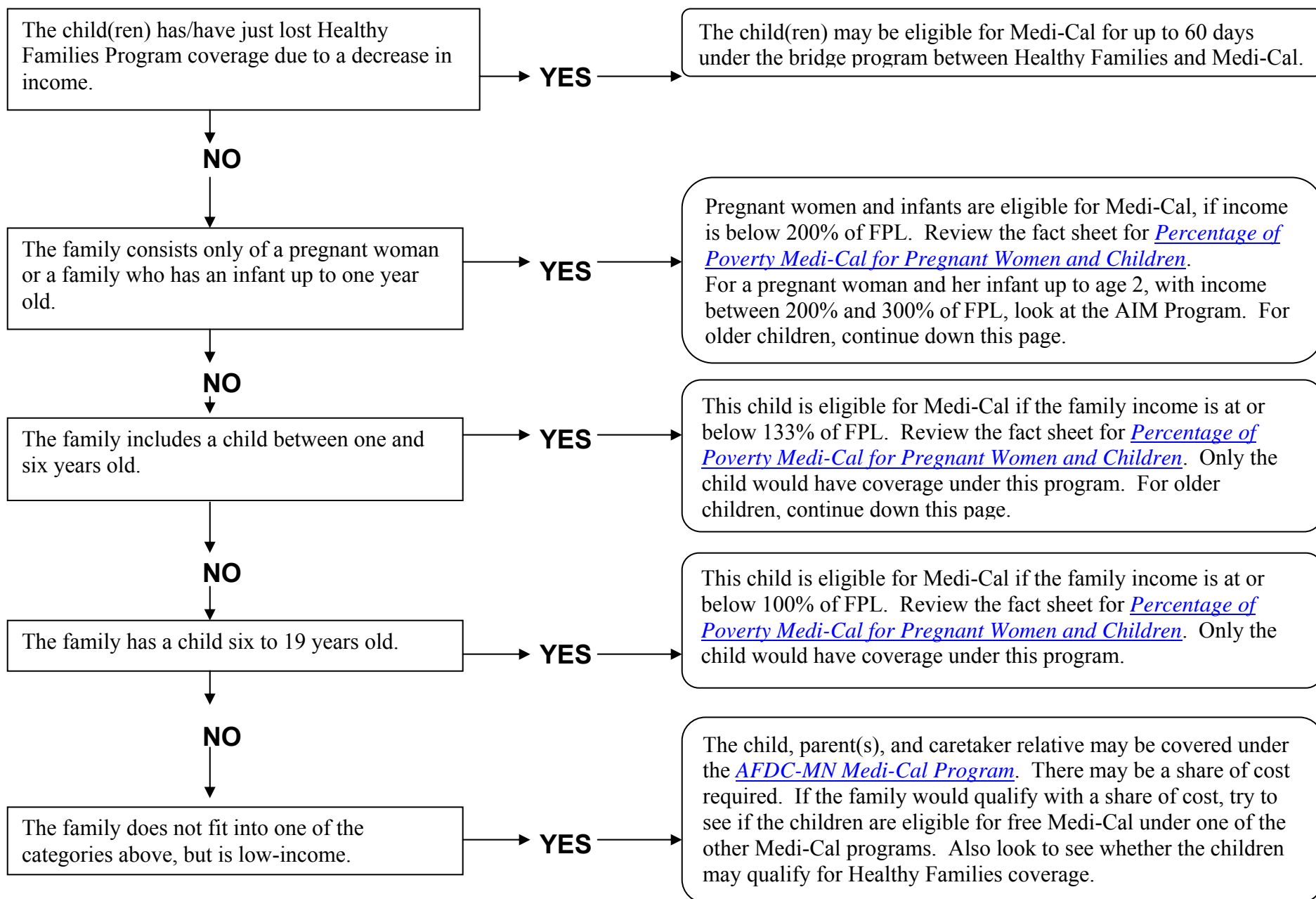


CHART B

(A child with a disability or special needs)

✓ Children with special needs are eligible for the same types of Medi-Cal as children without special needs, including EPSDT services. However, children with special needs may be eligible for the programs in this chart or for the waiver services on the next page of this **Chart B** as well.

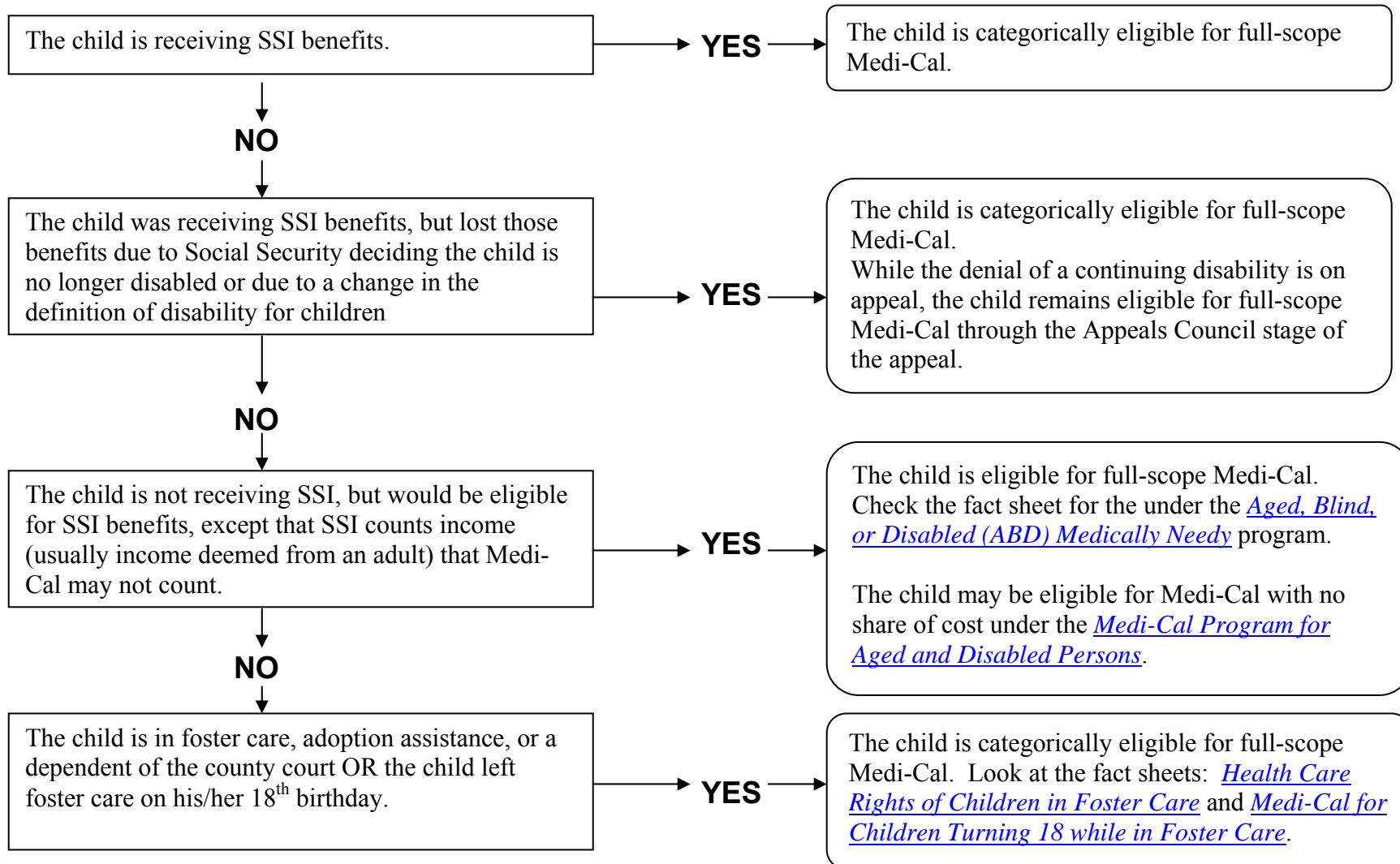


CHART B (Continued)

(A child with a disability or special needs)

√The waiver programs on this page are available for children who would otherwise need some type of nursing or institutional care. Eligible children can receive certain Medi-Cal services in order to be able to live at home or in the community.

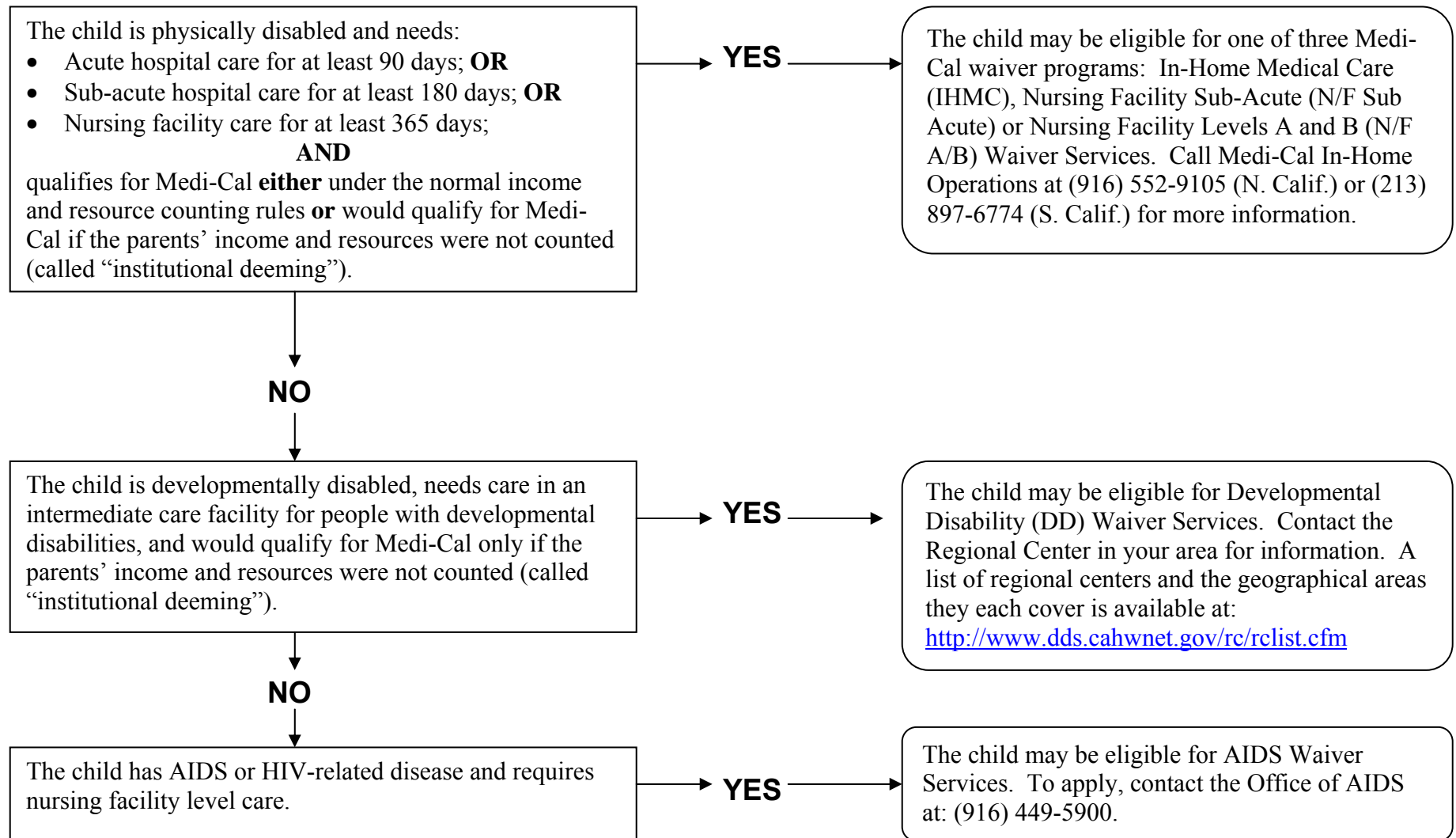


CHART C

(A pre-teen, teenager, or recent teenager)

✓ Check first to see whether minor children are eligible for a program listed on **Chart A**. Remember that EPSDT Services are available to teenagers and youths under age 21. Check the [EPSDT Quick Reference](#).

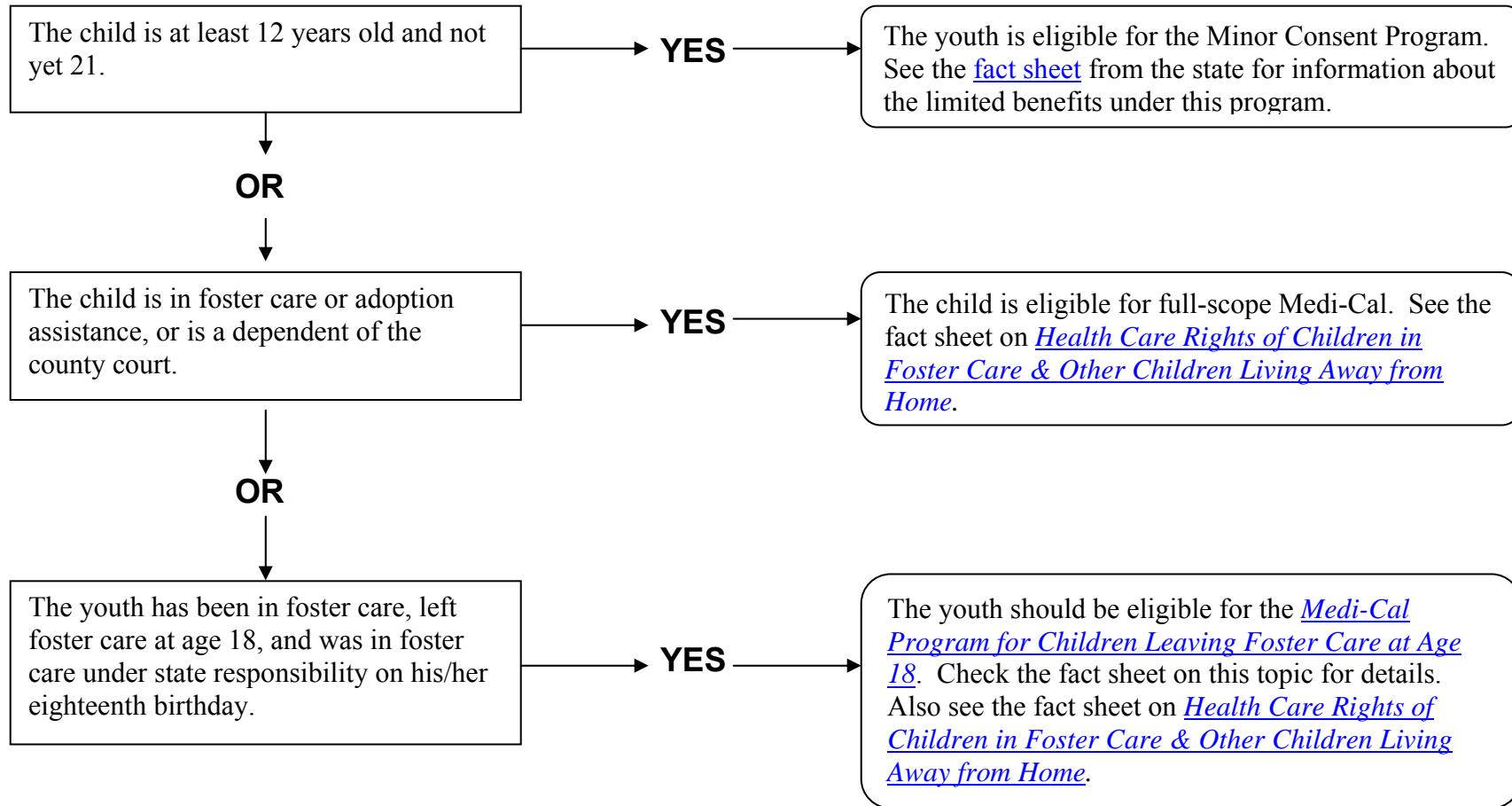
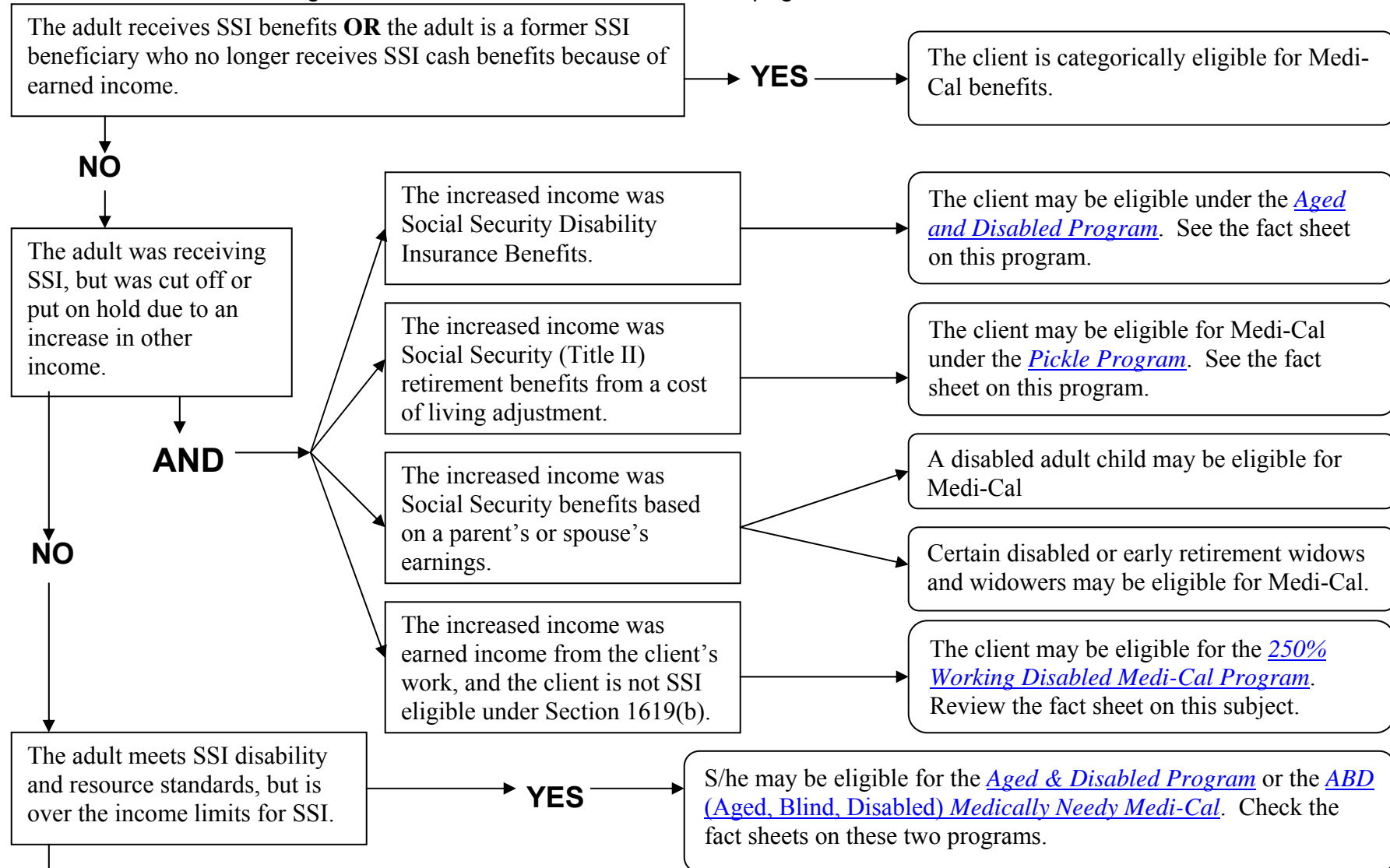


CHART D

(An adult 18-64 years old, with a disability or special needs)

✓ These adults may also be eligible for Medi-Cal by linkage to a child. Those programs would be on page one of **Chart A**. Also check to see if these adults are eligible for the waiver services on the third page of this **Chart D**.



NO, continue on next page

CHART D (Continued)

(An adult 18-64 years old, with a disability or special needs)

Also check to see if these adults are eligible for the waiver services on the third page of this **Chart D**.

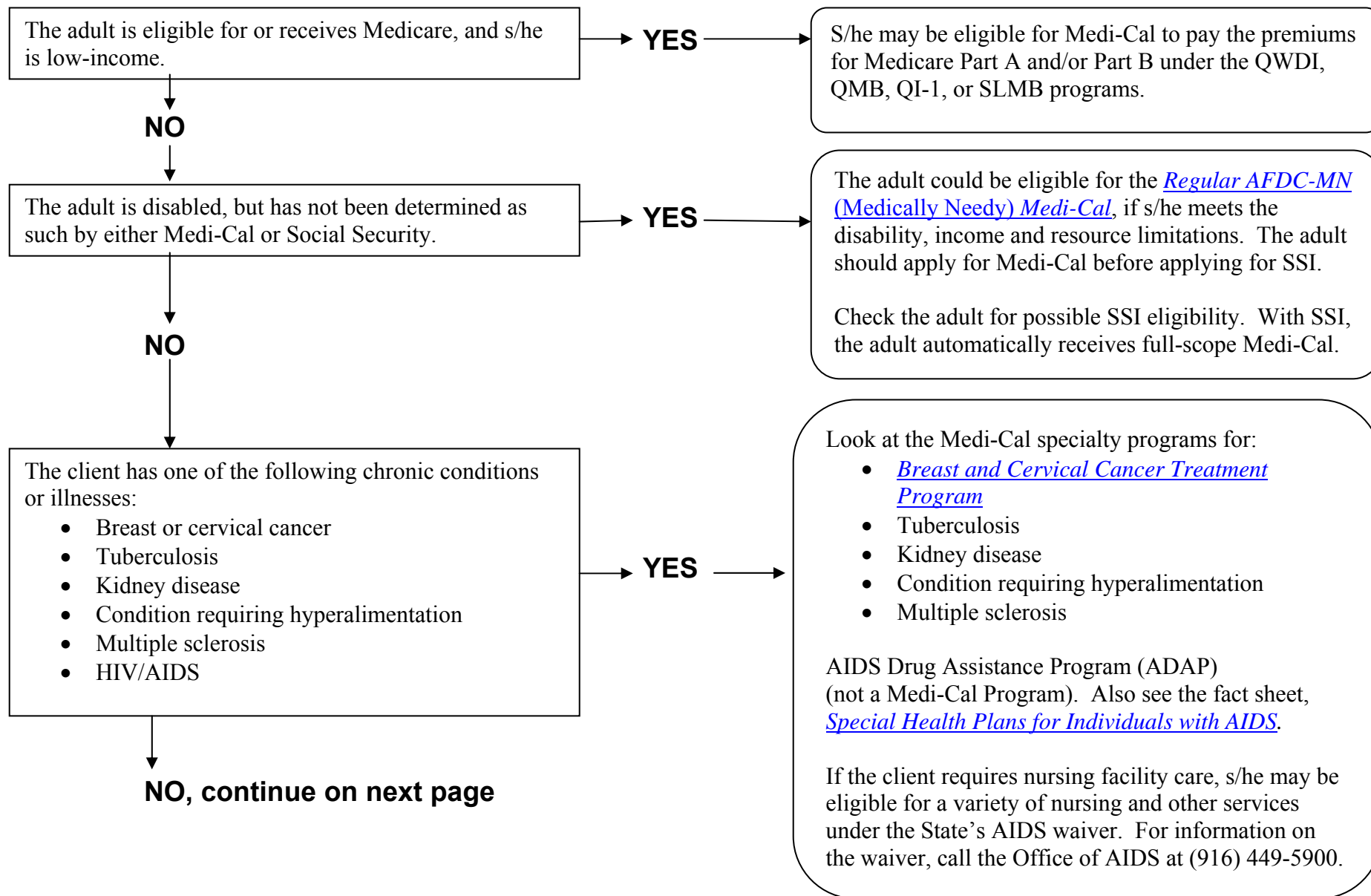


CHART D (Continued)

(An adult 18-64 years old, with a disability or special needs)

√The waiver programs on this page are available for people who would otherwise need some type of nursing or institutional care. Eligible clients can receive certain Medi-Cal services in order to be able to live at home or in the community.

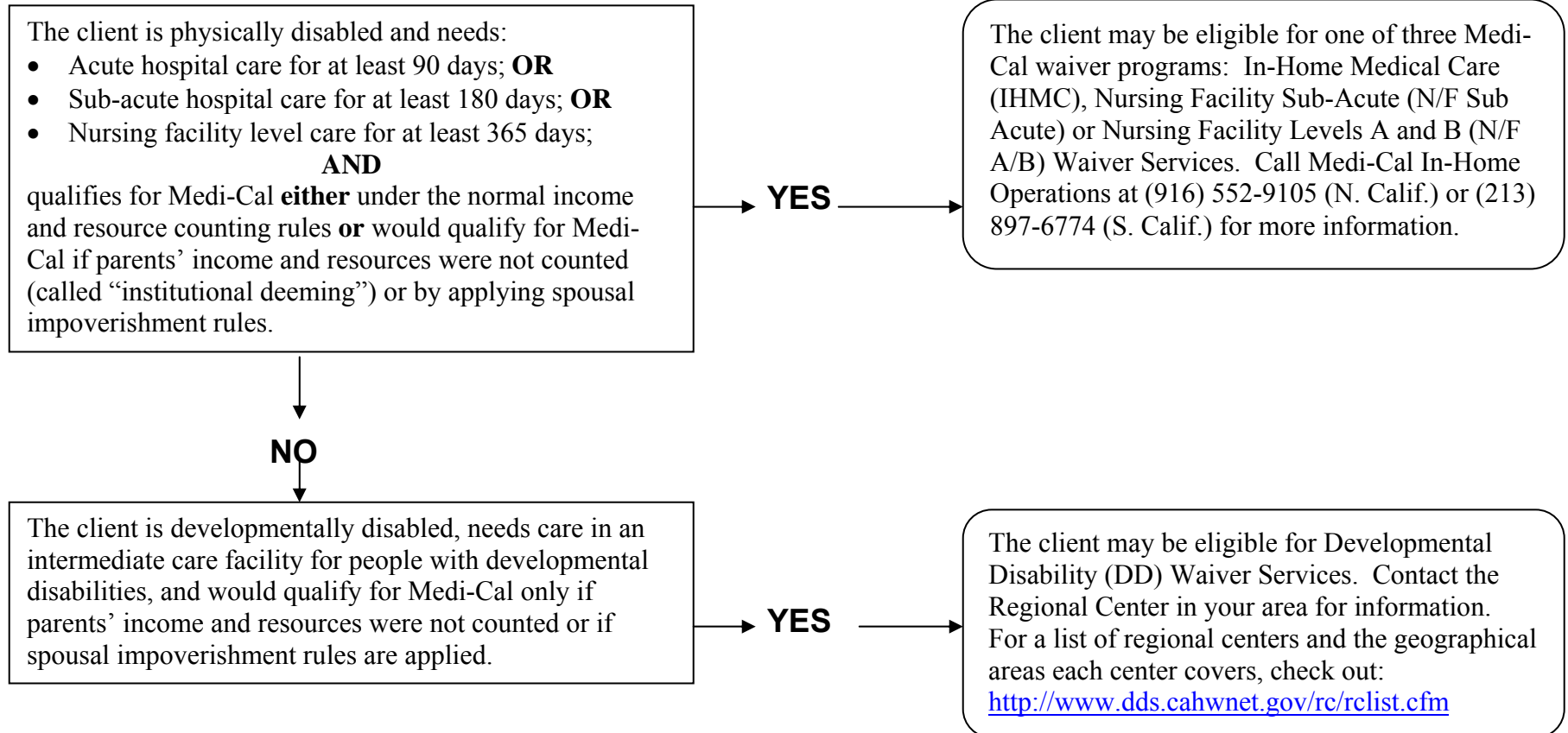


CHART E

(An elderly person, 65 or older)

✓ If the elderly person has a disability, you should also look at CHART D. If the elderly person is the caretaker of minor children, you should also look at CHART A, page one and consult the fact sheet, [Caretaker Relatives and Medi-Cal Eligibility](#).

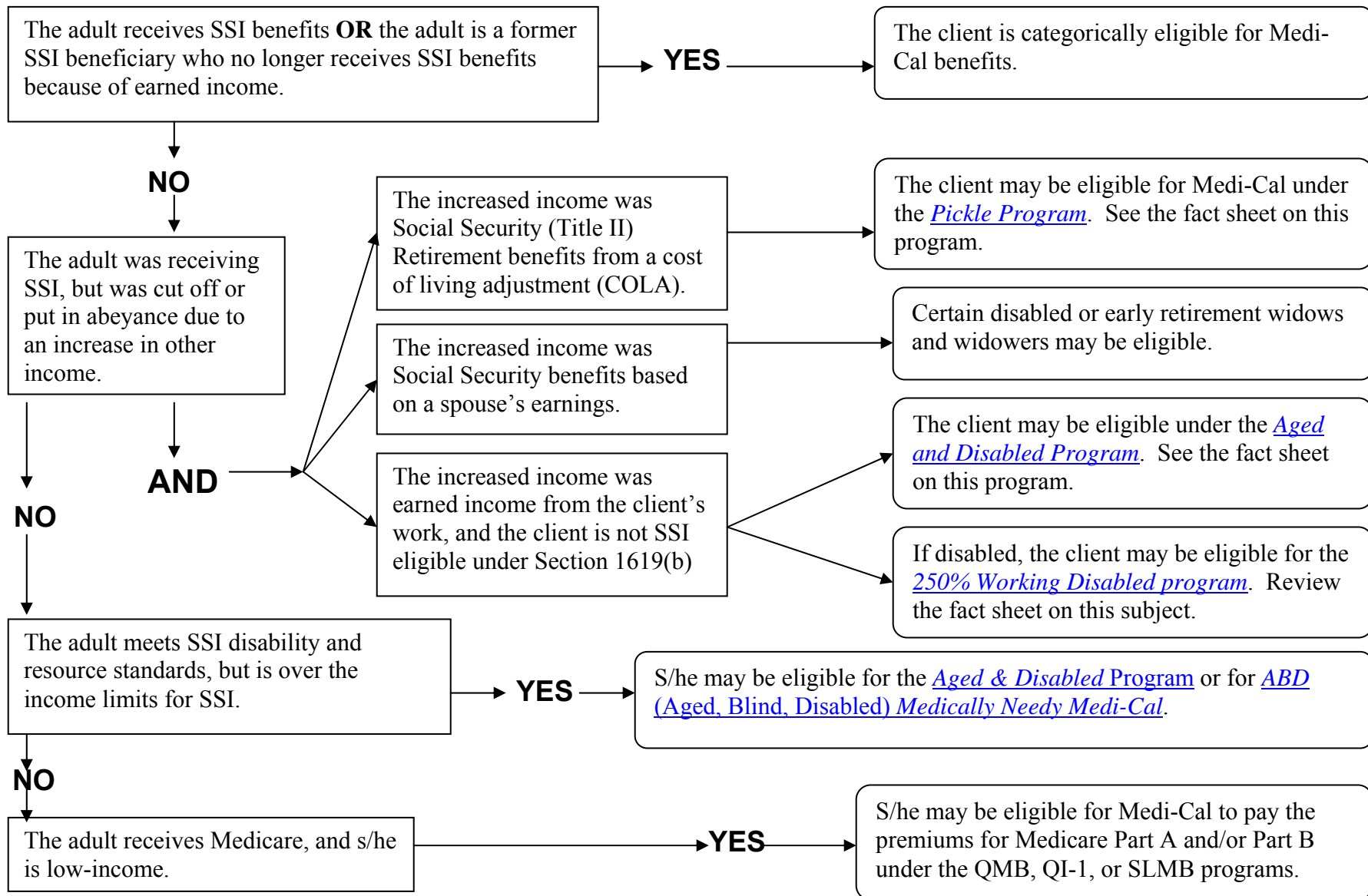


CHART F

(An adult 18-64 who does not have a disability and does not have custody of minor children)

✓ Most non-elderly adults who are not disabled and do not have custody of minor children are ineligible for Medi-Cal benefits. These clients would only be eligible for the very specialized programs noted below.

